

REMARKS

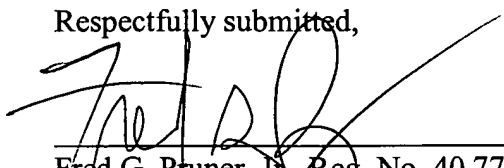
In an Office Action mailed on July 8, 2003, claims 1, 4, 5, 7-9, 14, 21, 27, 31, 33, 35 and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Rao; claims 6, 10, 11 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rao; and claims 2, 3, 12, 13, 16, 17, 19, 20, 22, 23, 25, 26, 28-30, 32, 34 and 36-38 were objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims but allowable if rewritten in independent form. The limitations of claim 2 have been incorporated into independent claim 1; the limitations of claim 16 have been incorporated into independent claim 14; the limitations of claim 22 have been incorporated into independent claim 21; and the limitations of claim 28 have been incorporated into independent claim 27. Additionally, claim 12 has been rewritten in independent form as claim 39; claim 25 has been rewritten in independent form as claim 21; and claim 38 has been rewritten in independent form as claim 50. Thus, with these amendments, the claims objected as being dependent upon rejected base claims but indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form have been rewritten in independent form. Therefore, for at least this reason, withdrawal of the remaining §§ 102 and 103 rejections and allowance of the newly added claims are requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the §§ 102 and 103 rejections and a favorable action in the form of Notice of Allowance are requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-1504 (ITL.0084US).

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Respectfully submitted,


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